

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 12279 021708Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-09 HEW-06 AGRE-00 EB-08 PA-02
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8730
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS LONDON 12279

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SWEL, EFIS
SUBJECT: CONTAMINATED CANNED SALMON

PLEASE PASS FDA, USDA

REF: A) STATE 193991; B) LONDON 12149

1. EMBASSY OFFICER INFORMED OFFICIAL IN DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY OF DIRECT CONTACTS
ESTABLISHED BETWEEN FDA AND U.K. AUTHORITIES NAMED
IN REFTEL A).

2. HMG HAD DISCUSSIONS LATE LAST NIGHT WITH JOHN WEST
AND OTHER U.K. SALMON IMPORTERS. ON THE BASIS OF THESE

MEETINGS HMG DECIDED TO A) LIFT THE BAN ON CANADIAN
SALMON, B) RETAIN THE BAN ON THE U.S. ORIGIN SALMON.
RATIONALE IS THAT IT IS TOO DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO
THE MASS OF U.K. CONSUMERS THAT ONE KEY LETTER IN AN
8-FIGURE, U.S. CODE DIFFERENTIATES PETER PAN PRODUCTION
FROM OTHER U.S. PRODUCTION.

3. ASKED WHETHER HMG HAD CONSIDERED OTHER SOURCES
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FOR THE BOTULISM OUTBREAK I.E. HANDLING THE CANS
THEMSELVES, OFFICIAL REPLIED THAT OTHER POSSIBILITIES
SUCH AS DAMAGE IN TRANSIT, OR FAULTY METAL IN CANS
THEMSELVES, WERE BEING INVESTIGATED, AND HMG DOES
NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITIES OF DISEASE ATTRIBUTED TO
SOME CAUSE OTHER THAN CONTAMINATION DURING PROCESSING
AND CANNING. PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES AND THE TRAD-

ING COMPANIES ARE BUILDING UP A STOCKPILE OF CANS FROM
PETER PAN SEAFOOD IN ORDER TO TRACE POSSIBLE CAUSES
OF CONTAMINATION.

4. NO FURTHER CASES OF BOTULISM OR POTENTIAL BOTULISM
REPORTED, AND NO DEATHS HAVE RESULTED TO DATE. OFFIC-
IAL STATED THAT THERE IS AS YET NO ABSOLUTE CONFIRMA-
TION THAT DISEASE IS IN FACT BOTULISM, THOUGH MOUSE
TESTS CONDUCTED TO DATE HAVE BEEN POSITIVE.

5. OFFICIAL AGAIN RESTATED HIS APPRECIATION OF THE
PROBLEMS THE BAN IS CREATING FOR THE U.S. CANNING
INDUSTRY AND HMG DETERMINATION TO FREE DISTRIBUTION
AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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